



Today on the Senate floor, Senator Jon Kyl continued to spread falsehoods about Senate health insurance reform legislation.

KYL CLAIMS MEDICARE BENEFITS WILL BE CUT, BUT BENEFITS ACTUALLY IMPROVE

Kyl: Health Insurance Reform Legislation Will “Cut Medicare Benefits by Nearly \$500 Billion.”

Today on the Senate floor, Senator Kyl insisted that health insurance reform legislation will “cut Medicare benefits by nearly \$500 billion.” [Congressional Record, 9/21/09]

NOT TRUE: Reform Does NOT Cut Seniors Benefits. Senate health insurance reform legislation refocuses Medicare funds on senior’s health, not insurance companies’ wealth. The health insurance reform legislation doesn’t cut any benefits for America’s seniors – it expands them. It gives every Medicare recipient at least one free, yearly physical with a primary care provider, which would include a personalized health improvement plan and information about Medicare-covered and recommended preventive screenings. The legislation will also make those preventive services recommended by the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force FREE for Medicare beneficiaries - things like mammograms, vaccinations, and other preventive services and screenings. Health insurance reform improves Medicare Part D, giving middle-income seniors a 50% discount on brand-name drugs when they reach the gap in drug coverage known as the donut hole. [Chairman’s Mark, Senate Finance Committee, [9/16/09](#)]

KYL CONTINUES FEAR MONGERING, ASSERTS THAT REFORM MEANS GOVERNMENT’S “NEAR TOTAL CONTROL”

Kyl: Health Insurance Reform Will Result in “The Government’s Near Total Control Over Health Insurance and Therefore the Delivery of Your Health Care.” Today on the Senate floor, Senator Kyl repeated the false GOP talking point that the health insurance reform legislation will result in “the

government’s near total control over health insurance and therefore the delivery of your health care.” [Congressional Record, 9/21/09]

NOT TRUE: Senate Health Reform Legislation DOES NOT Include Any Government Takeover.

There is no government takeover or control of health care in any senate health insurance reform legislation. In fact, in the recently released Senate Finance Chairman’s Mark, there is no government-run program. All the health insurance exchanges, which will create choice and competition for Americans’ business in health care, are run by states. The proposed co-ops are non-profit organizations and not run by the federal government. There is no government control or takeover of health care. [Chairman’s Mark, Senate Finance Committee, [9/16/09](#)]

KYL FALSELY CONTENDS THAT MANDATES MEAN GOVERNMENT CONTROL

Kyl: Mandates Mean More Government Control. Today on the Senate floor, Senator Kyl said, “First let’s talk about this mandate for everyone to buy an insurance policy. The Chairman’s plan imposes this

individual mandate for all individuals to purchase a government-approved policy.” [Congressional Record, 9/21/09]

NOT TRUE: Health Insurance Reform Establishes Minimum Standards for Plans, But Americans Choose the Coverage They Want. An individual responsibility to purchase insurance is part of all health insurance reform being considered by Congress and has bipartisan support, as 7 Republicans (Senators Alexander, Corker, Graham, Grassley, Bennett (UT), Crapo and Gregg) have cosponsored legislation that includes this policy. And health insurance reform will establish some minimum standards for health insurance, so the coverage you buy actually provides you some protection from catastrophic health care costs. This policy will reduce – if not eliminate – the hidden tax of \$1,100 added to every American family’s health insurance premium to provide care to those without insurance. [Chairman’s Mark, Senate Finance Committee, [9/16/09](#); Affordable Health Choices Act, [HELP Committee](#); America’s Affordable Health Choices Act; S. 334 (110th Congress); S. 391 (111th Congress); L. Blumberg, J. Holahan, New England Journal of Medicine, [7/2/09](#); Center for American Progress, [3/23/09](#);

KYL REPEATS FALSE STATEMENT THAT REFORM MEANS RATIONING

Kyl: Health Insurance Reform Will Result in Rationing. Today on the Senate floor, Senator Kyl said, “(T)he most damaging impact of this takeover by the federal government is the inevitable rationing, the delay and denial of health care to American citizens.” [Congressional Record, 9/21/09]

NOT TRUE: Health Insurance Reform DOES NOT Ration Care for Americans. There are no rationing provisions in the senate health insurance reform legislation. Republicans insist that comparative effectiveness research adds up to rationing, and that’s simply not true. Comparative effectiveness research gives doctors and patients the information they need to make more informed medical decisions. Republican leaders seem to be taking a page from the drug and device industry playbook, as the Wall Street Journal pointed out: “The drug and medical-device industries are mobilizing to gut a provision in the stimulus bill that would spend \$1.1 billion on research comparing medical treatments, portraying it as the first step to government rationing.” [“The American Prospect,” Ezra Klein blog, [12/5/08](#); Wall Street Journal, 2/10/09]